

What is Sexual Violence? Sexual violence can be defined as any type of unwanted sexual contact, ranging from sexist attitudes and actions to rape and murder. Sexual violence can include words and actions of a sexual nature against a person's will.

Who is the NSVRC? The [National Sexual Violence Resource Center \(NSVRC\)](#) leads the U.S. in providing professional support to local and state anti-sexual violence organizations. The NSVRC collaborates with partners nationwide to create research-based resources that focus on how to prevent and respond to sexual violence. The organization has the nation's largest library of resources on sexual violence and prevention. Through enhancing education, research, expert collaboration and victim services we are making the world safer and healthier.

What is SAAM? [Sexual Assault Awareness Month \(SAAM\)](#) occurs each year in April to spread awareness of the sexual assault epidemic in America and discuss prevention efforts. This year, the national SAAM campaign focuses on the widespread occurrence on college campuses. This topic is timely as incidence of sexual assault on college campuses is attracting a significant amount of attention from media, leaders and communities.

NSVRC's [SAAM materials](#) engage the entire community to take action to end sexual assault. Learn how everyone play a role in preventing sexual violence on campus: www.nsvrc.org/saam

Here are some statistics on college sexual assaults:

- As many as 1 in 5 women are sexually assaulted in college (Krebs, Lindquist, Warner, Fisher, & Martin, 2007), and while in college one in 16 men have been victims of an attempted or completed assault (Krebs et al., 2007).
- The impact of sexual assault can be wide-ranging and can have long-term impacts. Survivors experience an increased risk for post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, and depression (Kilpatrick, Resnick, Ruggiero, Conoscenti, & McCauley, 2007).
- As a result, a survivor might have difficulty performing academically, and often will drop out of school (Arria et al., 2013; Eisenberg, Golbertin, & Hunt, 2009). Conversely, people who sexually abuse are unlikely to be reported or held accountable and might rape again (Lisak & Miller, 2002).

NSVRC's [media packet](#) provides in-depth information and statistics on the complexities of this issue.

What is the NSVRC's position on what can be done to help? The NSVRC is committed to working with the field to end doing whatever it takes to help end this epidemic. The problem of sexual violence is widespread. College campuses are a microcosm of our broader communities and we need to combat this epidemic in all facets of society — in our homes, neighborhoods, schools, faith settings and workplaces. To start, we need to help society acknowledge that the way victims and perpetrators are perceived matters, prevention is possible, and research and resources are critical.

How to learn more: If you are interested in learning more about SAAM, sexual assault on college campuses, and our work, [please contact us](#). We can connect you with the appropriate expert at the NSVRC or a local field expert. The NSVRC team is available for interviews and is a resource for [reporting on sexual violence](#).